Arrest of UNI correspondent in Amritsar

216. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a UNI correspondent was arrested and detained under the National Security Act on 12th April, 1988 in Amritsar;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the journalist community including various unions and organisations have condemned the arrest and have demanded his release; and

(d) if so, what decision has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Shri Kuldip Singh Arora, Correspondent of UNI at Amritsar has been detained under NSA by Punjab Government as he has been indulging in activities prejudicial to the maintenance of Public order and security of State and these interfere with the efforts of the Govt. in coping with the terrorist and disruptive activities.

(c) and (d) Some organisations of Journalists have demanded the revocation of the order of detention. The matter will be considered according to the procedure established by law.

Shifting of Regional Collectorate of Central Excise from Bolpur West Bengal

217. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to shift the Regional Collectorate of Central Excise from Bolpur in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b) Government is considering temporarily shifting the Headquarters of the Central Excise Collectorate, Bolpur to Durgapur to enable construction of office and residential quarters for the staff at Bolpur. Once the construction work is completed, the office will be shifted back to Bolpur.

Evasion of excise duty by M|s Golden Tobacco Co.

218. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate of Anti-evasion of the Central Excise Department has recently served a show cause notice to M|s. Golden Tobacco Company at Bombay;

(b) whether it is fact that Government have demanded nearly Rs. 120 crores towards excise duty which was allegedly evaded by the Tobacco Company;

(c) what are the details of the raids conducted at the premises of the Company during the last one year and the details of incriminating documents, etc. seized; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to recover the excise duty and what action is being taken against the persons involved in such evasion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI

B. K. GADHVI): (a) Director of Anti-Evasion has not served any show cause notice recently on G.T.C. Industries Ltd. However, Collector of Central Excise, Bombay-II has issued a show cause notice to M|s. G.T.C. Industries Ltd., Bombay in March, 1988.

(b) The total amount of Central Excise duty allegedly evaded by M|s. G.T.C Industries Ltd. and their job-workers as per the show cause notices issued to them is approximately Rs. 205.81 crores.

(c) During the last one year i.e. during the period 1.4.1987 to 31.3.1988 a search was carried out on the premises of M|s. G.T.C. Industries Ltd., Bombay on 13.11.1987 and a number of incriminating records|documents seized. It would not be in the public interest to disclose the details of the seized records|documents.

(d) Out of the cases referred to in (b) above, one case has already been decided confirming an amount of Rs. 43.25 lakhs and imposing a penalty of Rs. 1 lakh. This amount is pending recovery. Proceedings in other cases have either been stayed by High Courts or are pending adjudication before the respective Adjudicating Authorities. Efforts are being made for vocation of the stay orders and expeditious disposal of the cases. The question of recovery of dues in these cases would arise only after they have been adjudicated. The question of taking any action against individuals involved in such evasion would also arise only after these cases are adjudicated.

Pakistani Spies

219. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of Pakistani spies are in the country and are collecting vital information;

(b) whether there is any Central machinery to check such anti-India operations;

(c) what are the details of the Pakistanis arrested during the last one year for their alleged involvement in spying; and

(d) what fresh steps Government propose to take to tighten the possible points of leakage of such vital information?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) Government is aware that a sizeable number of Pakistani spies are caught in the country every year. The intelligence task assigned to such spies include collection of vital information of tactical and strategic value connected with defence and other Government Departments.

According to information available, 88 persons including 73 Indians and 15 Pak nationals, were arrested on espionage charges during 1987 in the States of J&K, Punjab, Rajasthan and Union Territory of Delhi. The Central security agencies in conjunction with the security outfits of the State Governments are exercising maximum vigil to detect, unearth and neutralise any attempt at espionage by any individual or organisation.

Raids conducted by the income-tax officials at the Premises of United Brewaries Bangalore

220. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Income Tax officials at Bangalore had conducted raids at the business establishments of United Breweries group on 24th March, 1988 as reported in all the newspapers on 25th March, 1988;

(b) if so, what are the details of incriminating documents, etc. seized during the raids;

(c) whether any action has since been taken by Government against the management of M|s. United Breweries, Bangalore; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE